Middle School. The professional feedback and input that you gave to our main feeder school was invaluable!

★ STARS to Freshman GT Biology student, Iyana Fulp, who welcomed our Assistant Principal visitors to Ms. Drake’s classroom by giving them an impromptu (and well-constructed), explanation of her lab group’s dialysis machine design.

Each week, individuals will be recognized for their contributions to the school. Staff members are encouraged to submit accolades that are worthy of the General’s Star.

Our staff and students strive for excellence on a daily basis. The comments listed below represent some of the recognition for our staff and students.

★ STARS to Mr. Rhen and the Jazz Ensemble. Kevin Kamenetz, County Executive, said, “To say they were outstanding is an understatement. Their performances as our guests arrived and at the end of the ceremony, were exceptional. Dr. Rhen’s musical direction without a doubt brings out the best in his very talented students.” WOW!!

★ STARS to STARS to Kate Santavenere for receiving National Board Certification!

★ STARS to Jimmy Esbrandt and the entire Custodial Staff for making sure the facilities are clean, safe, and ready for students every day!

★ STARS to Kevin Dalsimer, Cheryl Milligan, Noah Belt, Heidi Ostendorf, Rachel Valsing, Mary Collette Muirhead, Holly West, Shayna Kirschenbaum, Scott Olson, Brian Zeleny, Jen Meehan, and Emily Berman for taking part in the Vertical Visit to Dumbarton Middle School.

★ STARS to Kobe Brown for lending a hand to help others!

★ STARS to Mr. Berquist, Ms. Dugovich, Ms. Muirhead, Ms. Sengebusch, and Mr. Seward for providing additional supervision during the hallway transitions.

★ STARS to Mr. Stevens and Ms. Hardesty for attending our PTSA meeting.
"Just because something doesn’t do what you planned it to do doesn’t mean it’s useless."
-Thomas Edison

Exciting things are happening in the technology department--especially in the fields of robotics and television production. Our VEX robotics team already qualified for the state championship to be hosted by Dundalk/Sollers Point High on March 6th & 7th. The team is currently working on quality and reliability of their robots to be competitive in their next event in January. THS News is under new (digital) management and is providing quality programming to a classroom near you.

**Robotics**

On Tuesday and Wednesday afternoons, many students are probably home parked in front of the TV. But for the Towson High VEX Robotics Team, when the 2:15 bell rings, their day has just started. The team meets in room 132 after school until 4:30 and on many weekends at the Baltimore City Robotics Center. During this time, robots are built and programmed. Sure, they’re not your average sci-fi fantasy, but their purpose is unique.

On occasional Saturdays throughout the school year, teams from a variety of BCPS schools gather early in the morning to face off against each other in a game. Each season, the game changes, challenging the teams to overcome seemingly impossible problems with their minds and their hardware. This year, the game is SKYRISE, where student teams are tasked with the problem of getting their robots to score objects on goals up to five feet tall. Though it’s a difficult challenge, club leaders Connor Wenck and Marco Tanda have managed to guide our team to victory.

The team has designed and built many different robot prototypes taking inspiration from many different machines, including scissor lifts and "Genie" lifts. The most intriguing feature of their design is the passive gripping mechanism that can lift two objects without the use of motors. This unique design was the reason for receiving the "Innovate" award at the New Town competition in November.

Come to Chesapeake High School on Saturday, January 18th or Dundalk/Sollers Point on March 6th & 7th to cheer for us.
THS News

The Towson High School morning show is now under the direction of Noah Belt (Art) and Bill Weber (Technology) and is making major strides in enhancing the way Towson students access the news. Over the summer, the dynamic duo known as Mr. Belt and Mr. Weber began discussing how to improve upon the current program. Many ideas were discussed and researched in order to produce the highest quality show. Belt suggested that we "go digital" by using a computer for recording and editing. Several software packages were evaluated and the winner was BoinxTV running on a Mac Pro tower. BoinxTV provides high-quality graphics, titles, and transitions that result in professional quality results on a tight budget. Weber suggested that we overhaul the set so that on-screen talent can see the director inside the control room and a paint job using the school colors. Since then, we have incorporated a green screen for chroma key effects, a curtain track for quick changes, improved lighting, and a DIY teleprompter (designed and built by Jeremy McCord).

Over the course of the first quarter, the program has evolved and matured in many ways—including streamlining processes so the show can be recorded in the morning before school with pre-recorded packages inserted with iMovie. Originally, the program was called "Yesterday Today" since the show was recorded a day in advance. Completed shows are uploaded daily to Safari Montage to be played in classrooms during homeroom.

None of this would be possible without a dedicated news team led by interns Jeremy McCord and Derek Frazer. Jeremy and Derek manage the daily workflow of the program including script assembly and editing, coordinating on-screen talent, and recording special programs. Our regular anchors include Catherine Della Santina, Kyle Rivers, Ariel Barbosa, Aly Murphy, Walter Young, Tyler Anderson, Patrick Hutson ("It's Academic' Trivia Question of the Day"), Gabrielle Millard ("Gab's Corner"), and Everest Brooks. These young men and women exhibit professionalism and are integral to the success of the program. In addition to serving as on-screen talent, Everest Brooks has volunteered countless hours and knowledge of audio and video behind the camera. We are also fortunate enough to have a visit by Mike Schuh (Towson parent/WJZ reporter) who gave our crew pointers on many aspects of television production, including lighting, white balance, and improving workflow.

This has been a truly enjoyable process due to the synergy between all members of the news crew. "Yesterday Today" has evolved organically through the efforts of many talented students and will continue to grow as we learn more about television production.
Have You Heard the News????

Blood Drive
The blood drive is coming back! This year, the annual Towson High School blood drive will be held on February 25. The blood drive gives students the amazing opportunity to help someone who desperately needs aid. Every day, more than 41,000 blood donations are needed and someone is in need of blood every two seconds in the United States. And donating just one pint of blood can save up to three lives! The process of giving blood is completely safe and reliable. To learn more about how blood donations work, visit http://www.redcrossblood.org/donating-blood/donation-process. In order to donate, you must be healthy and at least seventeen-years-old. To get a full list of requirements for eligibility, see http://www.redcrossblood.org/donating-blood/eligibility-requirements.

Towson High School - Class of 2016
Mrs. Fields’ Pick-Up
If your child participated in the Junior Class Fundraiser, all items need to be picked up after school on Thursday, December 18th from 2:30 to 3:00 in the auditorium lobby. If you cannot pick your items up at this time, please contact ksantavenere2@bcps.org as soon as possible to make other arrangements. Thank you again for supporting the class of 2016!
Senior News

- **S E N I O R  N I G H T  L I V E!** This is a fun evening in February where our Seniors showcase their talent! Share your talent today!

- **F U N D R A I S I N G.** Congratulations to our fundraising top seller: Akira Smith. Akira sold over $800 in products for the senior class. Thank you to all of our other sellers as well; lots of free prom tickets were earned.

- **C A P  A N D  G O W N S.** If you missed the cap and gown order date, you can still order online: Visit www.nrpatlantic.com. Your order must be placed by January to receive the early bird price of $9.90. After January, the price goes back to the regular price of $30.

Have You Heard the News????

Congratulations

Towson High School is fortunate to have some very talented students!!

Congratulations to Caroline Stringfellow! Her Christmas Card design was chosen by Mrs. DiMino for the “official” Christmas Card for 2014!

The Winning Christmas Card Design

Congratulations also to Amara Majeed. She is now a published author, with her book entitled “The Foreigners.” Her book tells the stories of real Muslims’ experiences since the 9/11 terrorist attacks on U. S. soil.

Caroline Stringfellow

Amara Majeed
Have You Heard the News????

Music News
This year, 65 Baltimore County students in grades 7-12 qualified for Maryland All State Music Ensembles. Twenty of the students are from Towson High School!

Towson High School Musicians who qualified by audition & intense competition for Maryland All State Band, Orchestra, and Chorus Winners

**All State Junior Band, Orchestra, Chorus**
Andrew Schuck  
Daniel Schuck  
Rae Sasaki  
Mason Miller-Breetz  
Alex Chrvala  
Julia Batavick

**All State Senior Band, Orchestra, Chorus**
*Luke Powers - 1st chair trumpet!  
* Leo Sarbanes -1st chair oboe!
  
Yuzhu Shi  
Daniel Zipin  
Henri Colombat  
Vincent Gelso  
Walker Miller-Breetz  
Sarah Cai  
Ella Williamson  
Aly Murphy  
Mari Wetherington  
Anne Zappas  
Emma Balkoski

**Alternates**
Anne Zappas  
Naomi Element  
Lillian Blank

Winter Concert Dates:
Thursday, December 11 at 7 pm .................................................. String Orchestras, Full Orchestra  
Tuesday, December 16 at 7 pm .......... Wind Ensembles, Percussion Ensembles, Jazz Ensemble  
Thursday, December 18 at 7 pm .......................................................... Choral groups

Please celebrate the season and attend!
ASSISTANT PRINCIPALS VISIT TOWSON

We recently hosted assistant principals from across the county. Here are some of the positive impressions that were shared with our staff:

Positive feedback from visit:
- Collaboration, students were working together and were on task
- Great questioning from the instructors!
- Authentic work from students
- Level of work – high cognitive target- (evaluate, justify, high levels with hard problems)
- “The English classroom was enriched with student work, quotes, to support the thought provoking lesson.”
- “Signs of support- clarify misunderstandings, walk around the room, proximity, references to the AP exam, class facebook”
- Collaboration amongst teachers was evident from the lesson plan that was shared during the visit
- Students led the discussion.
- Teacher was a facilitator and let the students complete the work
- Selected groupings were predetermined based on characteristics/abilities of the students
- “Student pictures and the display of art work in the hallway was impressive.”
- The room arrangement (desks in cooperative settings) broke the mold of the traditional classroom setting where the teacher is the center of the classroom.
- Classroom transitions were quiet.
- High caliber of cohesive instruction was evident in every classroom.
Have You Heard the News????

Towson Branch
320 York Rd Towson, MD 21204
410-887-6166
www.bcpl.info

Validate your parking ticket for a lower rate.
Weekends and evenings after 5:30 p.m.,
parking $2 MAX

December 2014 Events Towson Branch

K ids  T e e n s  A d u l t s

BABY STORY TIME
Birth to 23 months w/adult
Connect with your baby through stories, rhymes, bounces and songs, followed by play time.
Registration required — online registration available
Wednesdays 9:30 & 10:30 AM
Thursdays 9:30 & 10:30 AM

TODDLER STORYTIME
2 to 3 years old w/adult
Engage your toddler through stories, rhymes, songs and movement activities, followed by a play time.
Registration required — online registration available
Fridays 9:30 AM

PRESCHOOL STORY TIME!
2 to 5 years old w/adult
Interact with your preschooler by enjoying stories, songs and activities together.
Fridays 10:30 AM

BUILD A GINGERBREAD HOUSE
School Age — under 8 w/adult
Build a gingerbread house of your own and listen to stories. Supplies provided. Sponsored by the Friends of the Towson Library.
Registration required — online registration available
Dec 6 Sat 2:00PM

THERAPY PETS UNLIMITED
School Age
Register your shy or reluctant reader to read to a furry, non-judgmental friend from the Therapy Pets Unlimited program.
Dec 6 & 20 Sat 10:00-11:30 AM
Please call branch to register

LEGO FUN!
School age 6-12 years old under 8 w/adult Create with LEGO blocks! All supplies provided.
Dec 30 Tue 2:00 PM

TEEN OPEN MIC
Teens
Bring your poetry, rap, music and show us what you’ve got! Sign-up starts at 6:00.
Dec 17 Wed 6:30 PM

HISTORY BOOK CLUB
December book discussion of Zelalot: The Life and Times of Jesus of Nazareth by Reza Aslan.
Dec 17 Wed 7:00 PM

FORCED SERVITUDE AT HAMPTON: IN BLACK AND WHITE
National Park Sponsored by the Friends of the Towson Library.
Nov 20 Thu 2:00 PM

SMART CHOICE HEALTH LITERACY
A two-hour interactive workshop where you will learn what to consider when purchasing health insurance through a series of exercises using a predefined character profile. Presented by University of Maryland Extension.
Dec 2 Tue 6:30 PM
TO: Parents or Guardians of Baltimore County Public Schools’ students

FROM: Lloyd Brown

DATE: November 21, 2014

SUBJECT: Microsoft Office 365 Student Advantage Program

As we move forward with the Students and Teachers Accessing Tomorrow (S.T.A.T.) 1:1 digital conversion initiative, Baltimore County Public Schools is participating in the Microsoft Office 365 Student Advantage Program. The program will give your enrolled student and other family members access to as many as five copies of the Microsoft Office 365 suite for personal computers, tablets, iPads, iPhones, and Android devices, all free of charge.

The Microsoft Office 365 suite contains all of the most widely used Office functions - Word, Excel, PowerPoint, and Publisher software tools. Proficiency with the suite of applications is among the most commonly required skills among employers both nationwide and internationally.

To access and download Microsoft Office 365, BCPS students should go to www.bcps.org/Office365 and log in using their full BCPS username (including @bcps.org) and password. Students who do not know their BCPS usernames are asked to contact their school’s technology liaison for assistance. On the installation page, make sure the language is set to “English (United States)” and then click “install.” Microsoft Office 365 will automatically install the 32-bit version of its product; BCPS does not recommend installing the 64-bit installation due to compatibility issues (see attached instructions for installing Microsoft Office 365).

Students who encounter any problems installing the software, or would like instructions for installing Microsoft Office 365 on Apple or mobile devices, should click the “Troubleshoot Installation” link on the main installation page.

We hope our students and their families will take advantage of this great opportunity. Thank you for supporting your student as he or she continues to master the skills needed for their future.

lb/kh
Instructions for Installing Microsoft Office 365

1) Open Internet Explorer or another Web browser.

2) Enter www.bcps.org/Office365 in the address bar.

3) At the Sign in screen, login with your full BCPS username “abcdef@bcps.org” and your internal password.

![Office 365](image)

Sign in with your organizational account

abcdef@bcps.org

Password

Keep me signed in

Sign in

Can’t access your account?

4) On the Installation page, make sure the Language is set to “English (United States)” and then click install. NOTE: By default Office 365 installs the 32-bit version-Do Not Change. BCPS does not recommend installing the 64-bit installation due to compatibility issues.

5) At the bottom of the screen, select Run.

6) Follow the prompts and accept the license agreement.

7) When you see “You’re good to go,” select “All Done!”.
Instructions for Installing Microsoft Office 365

1) Open Internet Explorer or another Web browser.

2) Enter www.bcps.org/Office365 in the address bar.

3) At the Sign in screen, login with your full BCPS username “abcdef@bcps.org” and your internal password.

4) On the Installation page, make sure the Language is set to “English (United States)” and then click install. NOTE: By default Office 365 installs the 32-bit version-Do Not Change. BCPS does not recommend installing the 64-bit installation due to compatibility issues.

5) At the bottom of the screen, select Run.

6) Follow the prompts and accept the license agreement.

7) When you see “You’re good to go,” select “All Done!”.
If you have any issues installing the software, or would like instructions for installing Office 365 on Apple or mobile devices, please click the “Troubleshoot Installation” link on the main installation page.

Office

**Install the latest version of Office**

This will install the following apps on your computer: Word, Excel, PowerPoint, OneNote, Access, Publisher, Outlook, Lync, InfoPath.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>App</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Word</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Excel</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PowerPoint</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OneNote</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Access</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Publisher</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Outlook</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lync</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>InfoPath</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Language:**

32-bit (Recommended)

**Version:**

English (United States)

**Note:** Installing additional languages on a computer that already has this version of Office doesn’t count against your install limit (5).

**Review system requirements**

[Troubleshoot installation]

[Install]
TOWSON HIGH SCHOOL
ID#01245

Dear Parents:

Welcome to the start of a new school year and a year of A+ School Rewards. Starting October 3, 2014 through March 19, 2015, TOWSON HIGH SCHOOL will have the opportunity to earn cash through Giant A+ School Rewards Program.

All you have to do is:

- Log on to www.giantfood.com/aplus select CUSTOMER REGISTRATION to register online using your Giant Card

NEW THIS YEAR: If you registered your card last year, you DO NOT need to re-register this year. You can visit the website to verify correct school assignment. Also, don’t forget to encourage your friends and relatives to do the same. It could mean more Cash for our school.

After you register your card, each shopping trip at Giant using your Giant Card earns CASH for our school. Each month, the amount of CASH awarded will be updated on the Giant website. You can track the amount of points you earn for our school by checking your grocery receipt and online when you create an account at www.giantfood.com. Our school will receive a check at the end of the program. The money can be used for any of our school’s educational needs.

*Phone numbers may not be used to designate.
UPCOMING EVENTS

December

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>Interim Report Distributed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>Winter Concert - Ensembles - 7:00 pm, Auditorium</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(Wind Ensembles, Percussion Ensembles, Jazz Ensemble)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>18</td>
<td>Winter Concert - Choral Groups - 7:00 pm, Auditorium</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>24-31</td>
<td>Winter Holiday - No School for Students and Staff</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

January

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1-2</td>
<td>New Year’s Holiday - No School for Students and Staff</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>School Resumes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Academic Planning Night - 6:30 pm, Auditorium</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12-15</td>
<td>HSA Exam—Government</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16-22</td>
<td>Mid term Exams</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19</td>
<td>Dr. Martin Luther King’s Birthday Observed - <strong>Schools &amp; Offices Closed</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>